

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Western Energy Company, a Montana corporation with offices west of Colstrip, Montana, has filed a request for bond release. The request by Western Energy Company is for Final Bond Release and a reduction to the permit area for the completion of Area C Reclamation. The request is for 17.0 acres of Phase I, 61.0 acres of Phase II, 276.0 acres of Phase III and 276.0 acres of Phase IV and a permit area reduction of 385.0 acres of Rosebud Mine Area C near Colstrip, Montana under the Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act and Permanent Regulatory Program. Surface mine permit C1985003C was originally issued on August 20, 1982.

The area for which full release is requested is located in portions of the following sections:

Rosebud Mine: County of Rosebud
T1N, R40E:

Sec.	1	E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
	2	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$

Western Energy is not requesting a reduction in the bond amount. The total amount of bond remaining in effect for the Area C permit would be \$56,207,281. Western Energy has completed all reclamation as approved. All backfill, regrade, drainage control has been done; all soils have been replaced; revegetation has been established prior to or during 2005 and was completed in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan. All drill holes have been properly abandoned and noxious weeds are controlled in accordance with the approved plan.

The application is available for inspection at the Department of Environmental Quality offices in Helena (2001 11th Avenue, Building B), and Billings (1371 Rimtop Drive, Building IP09, Airport Industrial Park), and at the Rosebud County Library, Forsyth, Montana. Electronic copies of the application may be requested by visiting the website <http://www.deq.mt.gov/ea/coal.mcp> or by emailing DEQCoal@mt.gov.

Written comments, objections, or requests for informal conferences may be submitted by any person with an interest that is or may be adversely affected within 30 days of the last published announcement to the Department of Environmental Quality, Coal and Uranium Program, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 or by emailing <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/publiccomment/> within 30 days of the final publication of this notice.

Date, Date, Date, Date